

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 13-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 13-14 are amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and merely address the outstanding §112 rejection and noted informalities; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 is amended to clarify the dimensions of the first and second portions with respect to the main sapphire substrate body and to each other. Claim 14 is also amended to depend from claim 1 because of an incompatibility with claim 13. Claim 13 is also amended to remedy antecedent support by deleting the "body has a thickness" feature because this feature is already positively recited in claim 1.

Support for the changes to claim 14 are found, for example, in Fig. 3 and paragraphs [0044] and [0045]. Claim 14 is thus fully supported by and enabled by Applicants' specification. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 is amended to conform to Fig. 3 and recites that the first portion has thickness less than the thickness of the body and the second portion has a thickness equal to the body. Claim 14 is thus concise and definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 6-7, 11, 13, 15 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6,593,159 to Hashimoto et al. (Hashimoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,239,033 to Kawai and CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 82nd Ed. by David Lide (Lide). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action bases the rejection on the combination of newly cited Hashimoto with the teachings of the previously applied references. Particularly, the Office Action alleges that Hashimoto has a sapphire substrate body 60 with a cavity 68 and a semiconductor structure disposed over the cavity. Although the Office Action admits that Hashimoto fails to teach a filling of the cavity, the Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious to substantially fill Hashimoto's empty cavity recess 68 with a material having a greater thermal conductivity than the sapphire substrate body, based on the teachings of Kawai and Lide. Applicants respectfully disagree. This specific suggested combination is both unpractical and non-obvious from the teachings of the references. In particular, the Patent Office fails to establish motivation for the alleged combination and therefore has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The purpose of Hashimoto is to decrease threading dislocations and cracks inside the semiconductor device structure so as to lengthen the lifetime of the device. To achieve this goal, a recess/cavity is formed within the sapphire substrate, opening toward the bottom of the

surface, so that the thickness of the sapphire substrate is smaller than or substantially equal to the thickness of the semiconductor layer. The recess in the sapphire substrate directs the threading dislocations and cracks towards the sapphire substrate and therefore decreases the threading dislocations and cracks in the semiconductor structure, to lengthen the lifetime of the device (col. 2, line 56 to col. 3, line 8, Fig. 8 and col. 12, lines 59 to col. 13, line 6).

The empty recess/cavity 68 in Hashimoto is critical to its operation and is not taught to serve as a heat sink. Therefore, Hashimoto teaches away from filling it with any kind of material as alleged and clearly does not suggest the use alleged by the Office Action. To proceed as the Office Action suggests would obviate the main purpose of Hashimoto, rendering it unsuitable for its intended purpose. There is therefore no motivation or suggestion to combine the references as alleged from the Hashimoto teachings

Kawai fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hashimoto. Kawai teaches advantages to "thinning" of the substrate, which also teaches away from the subject matter of independent claim 1. As previously asserted in Applicants' prior response, Kawai is concerned with providing electrical conductivity by its electrode structure. Although having limited heat dissipation properties, Kawai does not appreciate advantages to sizing the cavity as claimed and instead relies upon a small hole for electrical conduction and the "thinned" substrate for most heat dissipation. Thus, even if combined, the combination fails to teach or suggest the specific configuration recited.

Lide is only relied upon for identification of gold (Au) as having high thermal conductivity properties. However, Lide fails to appreciate problems overcome by the subject matter of claim 1 and fails to teach or suggest filling the cavity as claimed and forming the cavity as claimed.

Independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom thus define over the alleged combination and are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 4-5 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Kawai and Lide, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,059,763 to O'Brien. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

O'Brien fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hashimoto et al. with respect to independent claim 1. O'Brien is merely relied upon for laser ablation. Accordingly, claims 4-5 and 21-22 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Kawai and Lide, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,731,046 to Mistry et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mistry fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hashimoto et al. with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 8-9 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Kawai and Lide, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,189,771 to Maeda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Maeda fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hashimoto et al. with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable for its dependence on allowable base claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Kawai and Lide, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,449,930 to Zhou. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Zhou fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hashimoto et al. with respect to independent claim 1. Zhou is relied upon for having a cavity with a depth equal to the thickness of the body. However, the Office Action fails to provide a motivation for replacing the isolated cavity in Hashimoto with a structure in Zhou that has a through opening. Moreover, as mentioned previously, the empty cavity 68 in Hashimoto is specifically provided to prevent thread dislocations. Thus, Hashimoto teaches a criticality to the empty cavity, which is incompatible with the structure in Zhou. Accordingly, Hashimoto and Zhou are not combinable as alleged. Thus, claims 14 and 16-17 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Stephen P. Catlin
Registration No. 36,101

JAO:SPC/jnm

Date: July 12, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 24-0037
--